

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 204449

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P 272211Z AUG 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 204449

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MILI, OCLR, UK, SF

SUBJECT: PROPOSED SAFAIR USE OF ASCENSION

REF: (A) LONDON 12044, (B) PRETORIA 2836, (C) LONDON 11651,
(D) STATE 177039, (E) LONDON 12471

1. WITH REGARD TO FIRST QUESTION RAISED PARA 4, REF (C),
SAG HAS REQUESTED THAT WE DELAY FURTHER OUR RESPONSE TO
THEIR REQUEST FOR PERMISSION FOR SAFAIR TO USE ASCENSION
FACILITIES. WE AGREED. RE SECOND QUESTION, THERE IS NO
AGREEMENT IN FORCE BETWEEN THE U.S. AND U.K. REGARDING THE
PROCEDURES FOR GRANTING COMMERCIAL AIRCRAFT THE RIGHT TO
LAND AT ASCENSION. IN THE ABSENCE OF SUCH AN AGREEMENT,
THE EFFECT OF ARTICLE XI OF THE 1956 ASCENSION ISLAND AGREE-
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PAGE 02 STATE 204449

MENT IS TO REQUIRE AGREEMENT OF THE TWO GOVERNMENTS EACH

TIME A REQUEST FOR SUCH USE ARISES. IF BOTH GOVERNMENTS DO NOT AGREE TO THE USE REQUESTED, THE USE MAY NOT BE PERMITTED. RE THIRD QUESTION, AIR FORCE HAS CONFIRMED WITH ASCENSION THAT EARLIER SAFAIR FLIGHTS IN QUESTION DID NOT USE ASCENSION FACILITY.

2. WITH REGARD TO SAFAIR REQUEST TO U.K. DEPARTMENT CONCURS IN U.K. APPROACH TO SAG ALONG THE LINES DESCRIBED

IN REF (A). EMBOFF SHOULD INDICATE TO FCO THAT IF CARGO INCLUDES DISASSEMBLED MIRAGES OR OTHER ITEMS WHICH WOULD CONSTITUTE SOUTH AFRICAN EFFORT TO CIRCUMVENT UN ARMS EMBARGO, U.S. WILL SUPPORT U.K. TURN-DOWN ON THAT BASIS. AT SAME TIME, EMBOFF SHOULD RECALL MORE GENERAL U.S. CONCERN ABOUT USE OF ASCENSION BY CIVILIAN AIRCRAFT AND SHOULD AVOID CREATING IMPRESSION WE WOULD NECESSARILY APPROVE SAFAIR FLIGHTS IF CARGO WERE NOT TO CONSIST OF EMBARGOED ITEMS.

3. CONCERNING PARA 2, REF. E. THE FCO IS INCORRECT IN ASSUMPTION THAT USE OF ASCENSION BY SOUTH AFRICAN MILITARY AIRCRAFT DOES NOT REQUIRE BOTH U.S. AND U.K. APPROVAL. ARTICLE IV(2) OF 1956 ASCENSION AGREEMENT REQUIRES APPROVAL OF BOTH U.S. AND U.K. REPS AT ASCENSION FOR ANY ACCESS TO SITES BY PERSONS NOT OFFICIALLY CONNECTED WITH THE LONG RANGE PROVING GROUND. AS A RESULT OF THIS PROVISION, EVEN RAF AIRCRAFT COULD NOT USE ASCENSION WITH-

OUT APPROVAL OF U.S. REP AT AIRFIELD UNTIL 1962 WHEN AGREEMENT PERMITTING RAF USE WAS CONCLUDED (T.I.A.S. 5148).
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